Protest Lodged with Pakistan

255. SHRI JAGIR SING DARD. Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times Government of India lodged protests with Pakistan for meddling into the domestic affairs of India, during the years 1992 and 1993; and

(b) whether reply of each of the protest notes has been received by the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) Government's deep concern about Pakistan's interference in our internal affairs has been conveyed to Pakistan at every available opportunity. This issue has figured at all bilateral meetings. Prime Ministerial, Ministerial and at the Foreign Secretary level talks in the last two years. It has been strongly conveyed that such support is totally unacceptable and it is in violation of the Simla Agreement and the internationally accepted norms of interstate conduct. Despite overwhelming evidence, Government of Pakistan has denied its involvement in activities directed against India.

Raphel's Recent Visit to Jammu and Kashmir

256. SHRI PARMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Pioneer of February 5, 1994 under the caption; Raphel visited J&K secretly;

(b) if so, what are the factors in this regard;

(c) what are the purpose of these visits of Miss Robin Raphel, US assistant Secretary of State to Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Following the report published in February 5, 1994 edition of Pioneer under the caption 'Raphel visited J&K secretly', the US Embassy Press Attache in a letter to the Editor, published by Pioneer on 9 February, 1994, stated that "while serving in New Delhi as Political Counsellor at the US Embassy, Robin Raphel travelled only once to Jammu and Kashmir, a trip which took place in May 1993 with the full knowledge of both the State and Central Governments. Any suggestion to the contrary is absolutely false".

(c) Not applicable.

(d) Government do not discourage foreign diplomats or media persons from visiting J&K to ascertain for themselves the "proxy war" being waged by Pakistan through its active support to terrorists in J&K.

Repatriation of Chakmas from Tripura

257. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 15th February, 1994 was fixed for the repatriation of Chakmas from Tripura and other parts of the country to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, how many Chakma refugees have been repatriated so far;

(c) whether Government are satisfied that there will be no more harassment to them in Bangladesh; and

(d) whether the repatriation plan has been decided upon in consultation with the Bangladesh Government?